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Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2006 Waterfowl Season Announcement & Mendenhall Refuge Avian Influenza Sampling

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces the opening of waterfowl hunting season on the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge. The season officially begins at 5:28 AM on Friday, September 1, 2006. Daily legal shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. The waterfowl season concludes at 3:06 PM on December 16, 2006. Hunters are reminded to practice safe and ethical hunting while on the refuge.

Waterfowl hunting permits for the 2006 season are now available through the Internet or at the Wildlife Conservation office in Douglas. The Internet address to access the waterfowl permit site is <http://hunt.alaska.gov>, click on the online registration permits link located on the right side of the page. On the next page select apply for permit after reading the online issuing requirements; then select hunt number WU001 for the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge waterfowl hunting permit.

The department is pleased to announce that avian influenza sampling will be conducted on the refuge during the month of September. Staff will be located in various access points to the refuge, focusing on the Airport Dike Trail, Sunny Point and the Lemon Creek Lookout. The sampler will be wearing a blaze orange vest and department apparel for identification. Hunters' cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated as surveillance efforts begin on the refuge.

Those with questions can contact the Douglas Area Wildlife Office of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game @ 465-4265.

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